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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ECLECTIC GREY MATER DESIGNS, LLC** [US/US]; 279 East 650 North, Bountiful, UT 84010 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MEYER, Matthew, Earl** [US/US]; 279 East 650 North, Bountiful, UT 84010 (US).

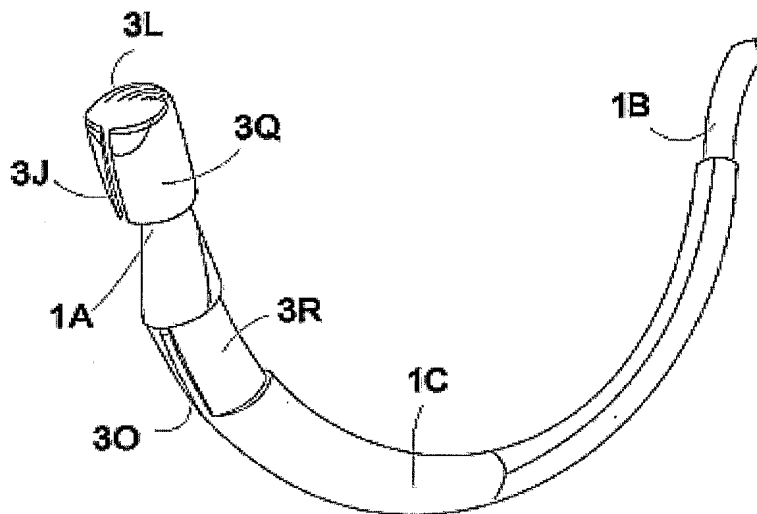
(74) Agents: **PENNER, Steven, J.** et al.; GREENLEE, WINNER AND SULLIVAN, P.C., 4875 Pearl East Circle, Suite 200, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

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(54) Title: SAFETY SUTURE NEEDLE ASSEMBLIES AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: Suture needles are a significant safety hazard for medical workers, mainly because of accidental needlestick injuries. Disclosed herein are safety suture needle assemblies and related methods. In particular, variations of a safety suture needle (1C) having an activatable sheath (3Q) are disclosed. The implementation of certain embodiments of the disclosed invention can result in a desired improvement in safety, including the prevention of unwanted needle punctures, while achieving efficient suturing.

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